

REPORT

CD NO.

25X1

DATE DISTR. 30 June 1955

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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- CLASSIFICATION S-E-C-R-E-T

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4. Not only Grotewohl's, but also Walter Ulbricht's speeches were edited and approved in the same fashion. The same is supposedly still being done with all significant laws, decrees, resolutions, and speeches emanating officially from the Minister President, the Council of Ministers, or the individual members of the government.
5. The most prominent members of the East German government (Wilhelm Pieck, Grotewohl, Ulbricht, and possibly Ernst Wollweber) are believed to be Soviet citizens or to hold double citizenship, so that their subservience to the highest representative of the Soviet government in East Germany is also formalized in their legal status.
6. The Soviet Embassy in Berlin constitutes the actual government of East Germany. After the abolition of the SHCG and of the offices of the representatives of the Soviet High Commissioner for Germany, the Embassy was reorganized, so that at present each East German ~~ministry~~ committee (for instance, the State Planning Commission) is paralleled by a section which supervises and controls the ~~ministry~~ ~~German~~ agency. The Soviet control is carried out through these sections and through the system of ~~ministry~~ ~~German~~ are attached directly to the East German ministries and government.
7. It is not known whether the individual German ministers receive their instructions in all instances directly from the specialized sections of the Embassy or through the office of the East German Minister President. It seems that in the special areas the control and the ~~issuing~~ directives are carried out in a more complex manner: The Soviet ~~ministry~~ ~~German~~ ministries, acting on direct instructions received probably ~~from~~ the Embassy, make "suggestions" to the individual ministers and ~~through~~ them the respective decrees and directives which are then submitted by the ministers to the Council of Ministers or the Office of the ~~Minister President~~. At the same time, the drafts are submitted by the Soviet ~~ministry~~ ~~German~~ specialized sections of the Embassy, which undoubtedly pass on the ~~drafts~~ Council of Ministers approves them officially and proclamation is made in the form of a decree or directive. It is certain that no decree or directive proposed by an East German ministry to the Council ~~can~~ be submitted without having been discussed at length with the ~~ministry~~ ~~German~~ to the German agency.

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1. Comment: ~~all~~ important policy matters, as a rule, were discussed and coordinated between the SHCG and the top East German functionaries before they reached the governmental machinery and that the Interpreters' Department of the Chancellery primarily handled translations from German into Russian of routine operational matters, ordinances, directives, etc.; the Interpreters' Department received only a very few work orders for translations from Russian into German. ~~the~~ SHCG did not issue directives or instructions to the Chancellery but ~~all~~ matters through the State Administration ~~Department~~ and Central Committee to create the impression that all matters were handled independently by the Germans. ~~prior~~ prior to the declaration of the sovereignty of East Germany, all draft laws and ordinances had to be translated into Russian and submitted in nine copies to the SHCG before going to the Council of Ministers for a decision; since the proclamation of sovereignty, only three copies of the law or ordinance had to be submitted to the SHCG after being passed by the Council of Ministers.

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THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES WITHIN THE MEANING OF TITLE 18, SECTIONS 793 AND 794, OF THE U. S. CODE, AS AMENDED. ITS TRANSMISSION OR REVELATION OF ITS CONTENTS TO OR RECEIPT BY AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PROHIBITED BY LAW. THE REPRODUCTION OF THIS FORM IS PROHIBITED.

- In early summer 1954, the instructions imparted by the Soviet High Commissioner or, by his staff to Minister President Otto Grotewohl's office were not only transmitted orally, or personally and directly, to him, but it also often happened that the personal secretaries of the Minister President would send to the pool of interpreters separate sheets or batches of typewritten Russian texts, printed on single white paper, without any letter-head or signature. These were instructions, directives, and sometimes complete texts of decrees which were later promulgated officially - with practically no modifications, i.e. resolutions of the East German Council of Ministers.
- These texts, regardless of their contents (decrees, laws, resolutions, and even speeches) were called "Fragments". This euphemistic term for an anonymous Soviet order to the East German Government has become proverbial in the office of the Minister President. A "Fragment" is a text prepared in its entirety by the Soviet Embassy, sent over to the Office of the Minister President for translation and further action; the latter consisting simply of submitting or passing the order through official East German government channels for signature and publication. Allegedly, even at present, the bulk of the East German laws, decrees, resolutions, and other similar governmental actions is based on the "Fragments".
- In August 1954, the original text of a speech which was later delivered by Grotewohl at an official gathering had apparently been prepared in Grotewohl's office and must have been submitted for approval by the Soviet Embassy, because it was returned with editorial comments, remarks, and rather authoritarian criticisms in Russian (samples: "the comparisons of the situation in the West with that in the East is inappropriate"; "This expression cannot be used in this connection"; "Cancel this passage and replace it by" /follows the Russian text/.) The speech in its final form and as delivered by Grotewohl was a complete and precise translation of the version edited by the Soviet Embassy.

CLASSIFICATION ~~S-E-C-R-E-T~~

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5. The most prominent members of the East German government (Wilhelm Pieck, Grotewohl, Ulbricht, and possibly Ernst Wollweber) are believed to be Soviet citizens or to hold double citizenship, so that their subservience to the highest representative of the Soviet government in East Germany is also formalized in their legal status.
6. The Soviet Embassy in Berlin constitutes the actual government of East Germany. After the abolition of the SHCG and of the offices of the representatives of the Soviet High Commissioner for Germany, the Embassy was reorganized, so that at present each East German Ministry or important committee (for instance, the State Planning Commission) is paralleled in the Embassy by a section which supervises and controls the activities of the German agency. The Soviet control is carried out through these sections and through the system of advisers who are attached directly to the East German ministries and government agencies.
7. It is not known whether the individual German ministers receive their instructions in all instances directly from the specialized sections of the Embassy or through the office of the East German Minister President. It seems that in the special areas the control and the corresponding directives are carried out in a more complex manner: The Soviet advisers at the ministries, acting on direct instructions received probably through or from the Embassy, make "suggestions" to the individual ministers and draft with them the respective decrees and directives which are then submitted by the ministers to the Council of Ministers or the Office of the Minister President. At the same time, the drafts are submitted by the Soviet advisers to the specialized sections of the Embassy, which undoubtedly pass on them before the Council of Ministers approves them officially and proclamation is made in the form of a decree or directive. It is certain that no decree or directive proposed by an East German minister to the Council of Ministers can be submitted without having been discussed at length with the advisers attached to the German agency.

1. Comment: [redacted] all important policy matters, as a rule, were discussed and coordinated between the SHCG and the top East German functionaries before they reached the governmental machinery and that the Interpreters' Department of the Chancellery primarily handled translations from German into Russian of routine operational matters, ordinances, directives, etc.; the Interpreters' Department received only a very few work orders for translations from Russian into German. [redacted] the SHCG did not issue any written directives or instructions to the Chancellery but channeled all such matters through the State Administration Department of the SED Central Committee to create the impression that all matters were handled independently by the Germans. [redacted] prior to the declaration of the sovereignty of East Germany, all draft laws and ordinances had to be translated into Russian and submitted in nine copies to the SHCG before going to the Council of Ministers for a decision; since the proclamation of sovereignty, only three copies of the law or ordinance had to be submitted to the SHCG after being passed by the Council of Ministers.

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INFORMATION REPORT

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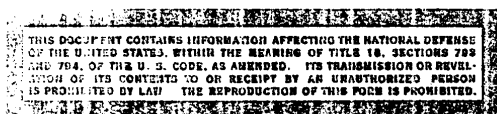
COUNTRY East Germany
SUBJECT Soviet Control over Zonal Government

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2. These texts, regardless of their contents (directives, laws, resolutions, and even speeches) are called "Fragmente". This euphemistic term for an anonymous Soviet order to the East German Government has become proverbial in the office of the Minister President. A "Fragment" is a text prepared in its entirety by the Soviet Embassy, sent over to the Office of the Minister President for translation and further action, the latter consisting simply of submitting or passing the order through official East German government channels for signature and publication. Allegedly, even at present, the bulk of the East German laws, decrees, resolutions, and other similar governmental actions is based on the "Fragmente".

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